

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

news release

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EARLY MIGRATORY BIRD HUNTING SEASON FRAMEWORKS SET

Regulations setting the hunting frameworks for certain migratory birds for the 1978-79 hunting seasons have been set by the Interior Department's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Lynn A. Greenwalt, Director, announced today.

The regulations, published in the July 24, 1978, Federal Register, set forth the species to be hunted, the daily bag and possession limits, the shooting hours, the season lengths, the earliest opening and latest closing season dates, and special closures, from which State conservation agency officials may select open season dates.

Generally the frameworks are the same as last year except for a few minor changes which affect local areas or regions.

This is the fifth rulemaking notice dealing with the 1978-79 migratory bird hunting season issued by the Service. The States will now select their seasons within these frameworks.

Upon receipt of season selections from State officials, the Service, in mid-August, will publish in the Federal Register a final rulemaking amending certain sections of the Federal regulations to reflect seasons and limits for the contiguous United States, Alaska, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and Hawaii for the 1978-79 season.

Species covered in this rulemaking are mourning doves, white-winged doves, band-tailed pigeons, rails, woodcock, snipe, and gallinules; teal in the Mississippi and Central Flyways during September; sea ducks in the Atlantic Flyway; and sandhill cranes in portions of North and South Dakota.

The regulations include a maximum 107-day falconry season in certain States. The option is offered to those States meeting Federal falconry standards. It affords falconers additional opportunity to participate in the sport without any significant increase in overall migratory game bird harvests.

Seasons for mourning doves may be selected between September 1, 1978, and January 15, 1979.

White-winged dove seasons may be selected in Arizona, California, Nevada, New Mexico, and Texas between September 1 and December 31, 1978.

Band-tailed pigeon seasons of not more than 30 consecutive days may be selected in California, Oregon, and Washington between September 1, 1978, and January 15, 1979. Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, and Utah may select

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